



Public Affairs Office
113 Comanche Road
Ft. Meade, SD 57741
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jill Broecher, Public Affairs Officer
605.720-7451 (Daytime)
605.490.5074 (Cell)

Letter to the Editor

May 2, 2013

Dear Editor:

This week, May 6-12, the VA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS) honors the dedicated men and women we consider to be the compassionate backbone of the Veterans' health care system – nurses.

I am delighted to acknowledge this group of individuals who have mastered the art and science of caring for our nation's heroes with compassion – a celebration of VA's Nursing workforce, professionals comprised of registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, licensed practical and vocational nurses and nursing assistants. I know that Veterans truly value and appreciate our nurses and their dedication and devotion as much as I do.

VA nurses truly reflect the theme of this year's National Nurses Week – *Nurses: Delivering Quality & Innovation in Patient Care* - Making a positive difference in the lives of Veterans and their families and the lives of all of us here at VA BHHCS. I know of no other group of nurses more dedicated to providing cost-effective, safe and quality health care services as an ever more important component of the health care system, and a critical component of transforming VA BHHCS into a 21st century organization.

Everyone enrolled in our health care system – nearly 19,000 Veterans – is touched by a nurse. Our nurses are driven to continually improve the quality of care they provide to patients, and they constantly seek out opportunities to obtain advanced training and education to improve their skills. This is why VA nurses are among the best trained and best educated in the world – and we intend to keep it that way. For that reason, our nurses are recognized and honored with local, regional and national awards throughout the year.

I ask that you join me in celebrating National Nurses Week today, and each and every day. I wholeheartedly thank you all for honoring those who make a difference – our VA nurses.

/s/

Jo-Ann Ginsberg, RN, MSN
Associate Director for Patient Care Services,
VA Black Hills Health Care System